

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Techniques are provided for determining predictive models of discourse functions based on prosodic features of natural language speech. Inter and intra
5 sentential discourse functions in a training corpus of natural language speech utterances are determined. The discourse functions are clustered. The exemplary prosodic features associated with each type of discourse function are determined. Machine learning, observation and the like are used to determine a subset of prosodic features associated with each type of discourse function useful in predicting the
10 likelihood of each type of discourse function.